



SHELDON WASSERMAN

3RD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

SHELDON A. WASSERMAN

Milwaukee County Board
3rd District Supervisor

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COMMITTEES

Parks, Energy & Environment,
Chair

Health Equity, Human Needs,
and Strategic Planning



Dear Neighbor,

It can't be stated often enough. Our Milwaukee County Parks are in crisis. Those of you who love and spend time in our parks have seen how services have been cut, buildings have been neglected, and maintenance has been less frequent.

I wish I had better news to share, but unless something fundamentally changes and Wisconsin sees dramatic changes in State government, this decline is going to continue. By 2027, Milwaukee County will have no local money to fund local priorities that are not State-mandated services. Milwaukee County Parks are among the services provided by Milwaukee County that are not mandated by the State.

By the time you read this letter, the 2022 Milwaukee County Budget will likely have already been adopted. Setting and adopting a balanced budget is the most important task that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors take on each year.

Each year, our budget discussions are focused on the structural deficit caused by State revenue caps and the increased cost of State mandated services. On average, County revenues grow by only 1% per year while expenses are expected to increase by 2.4%, the rate of inflation. The estimated operating budget gap for 2022 is \$20.3 million, and 2022 capital project requests exceeded available funding by \$78 million. This means departments must make cuts and our long list of deferred maintenance will continue to grow.

Milwaukee County has closed budget gaps of approximately \$300 million over the past decade. The County has done this by reducing its real estate footprint by 1.6 million square feet, reducing staff by 1,400 employees, and reducing services.

The County will receive a total of \$183 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA will provide the County with a needed boost in funds to help recover from the pandemic. This one-time infusion of cash can only be used through 2024 and will not solve the County's structural budget problem.

Milwaukee County continues to advocate for additional revenue options to fund local priorities. Increasing the revenue shared by the State would be the ultimate solution to our problem. The current State Legislature has indicated they will never let that happen, so we are forced to ask for permission to increase our sales tax by 0.5%, which they will also not allow. Additional revenue would stabilize the County's financial situation and give the County more options to fund local priorities, protect services, and provide much needed property tax relief.

I am part of a Wisconsin Policy Forum workgroup that's carefully considering the future of our Parks system. The first of two detailed reports was recently released. While the best options to save our parks would require action by the State, we're coming up with solutions and unique partnerships to make a terrible situation a little better.

I wish I could give you a happy report. As an OB-GYN physician, 90% of my job is sharing great news. "You have a healthy baby girl; you have a healthy baby boy." As a County Supervisor and Chair of the Parks, Energy, and Environment Committee, most of the news is much less happy. "We can't fix those tennis courts, can't keep that pool open, and can't open those bathrooms." But I will not give you false hope, will not lie to you, and will give you the straight truth. If anyone has any billionaire friends that would like to make a donation to keep our Parks open, please contact me ASAP.

Sincerely,

Sheldon A. Wasserman – County Supervisor, District 3

Lake Park Bridge Update



Construction on the Lake Park Bridge has finally started. Seeing this project through continues to be my top priority. For everyone's safety, no access to the bridge deck or surrounding project area will be allowed during construction. The project will continue until at least August 2022.

I am grateful to my colleagues for voting to allocate an additional \$1 million from our contingency account to make sure this project is completed. Thanks to Lake Park Friends for helping to move the project forward.

War Memorial Ribbon Cutting



Supervisor Wasserman attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the War Memorial Parking Lot with Sheriff Earnell Lucas and War Memorial Director Dan Buttery.

Estabrook Park Turns 105



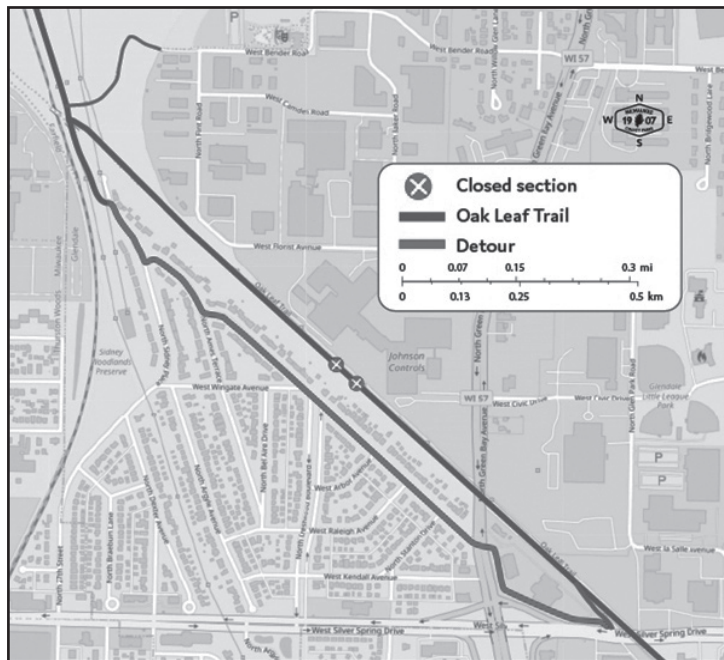
Supervisor Wasserman celebrating the 105th birthday of Estabrook Park with a ceremonial keg tapping. Revenue from beer gardens is critical to our Parks system.

Our Oak Leaf Trail

Oak Leaf Trail use has skyrocketed during the pandemic and our community is fortunate to have such a treasure. Our Parks Department has done a great job leveraging federal funds to expand and repair our network of trails.

The County is moving forward with replacement of the culvert under the Oak Leaf Trail Zip Line in Glendale where a sink hole has developed. The County Board recently voted unanimously to declare the project an emergency so that demolition and construction can begin immediately.

The sinkhole first appeared in 2019 and issues with the request-for-proposal process had threatened to delay the project indefinitely. The sinkhole presents a danger to the surrounding infrastructure and staff feared that another freeze-thaw cycle could cause a dangerous collapse. The Zip Line is one of the most popular segments of the trail, with average usership of over 350,000 trips per year. Please follow the posted closure signs and until these repairs are completed.



Grants to Landowners

Milwaukee County offers grants to landowners to help with the costs of installing conservation practices. These grants can help pay up to 70% of the cost for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, streambank protection and filter strips.

These State-issued-cost-share grants are administered by the County's Land Conservation Department. Grant funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Detailed information on the grant program and a full list of eligible practices can be found in chapter ATCP 50 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code located here: docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/020/50. Or if you prefer, contact Tim Detzer at (414) 278-2988 or timothy.detzer@milwaukeecountywi.gov at the Milwaukee County Land Conservation Department for more info.

Milwaukee County 3rd District Survey - Your Opinion Matters!

This survey is also available online at: tinyurl.com/District3Survey2021. All responses must be completed and returned by January 1, 2022.

1. Would you vote to raise the sales tax by 0.5% and/or increase the wheel tax by \$15 to increase funding for Milwaukee County government expenses?

- ☐ Yes, to both ☐ Sales Tax only ☐ Wheel Tax only ☐ No, to both ☐ No Opinion

2. What should happen with the road running through Lake Park and under the Ravine Bridge?

- ☐ Re-opened to vehicles as it previously was ☐ Hybrid option where the road is sometimes closed to traffic
☐ Re-opened strictly as pedestrian/bike path ☐ No Opinion

3. Would you be interested in having a weekly farmers market during the summer months on the path/road running under Ravine Bridge in Lake Park?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

4. Should a living-wage-paying food vendor at Bradford Beach expand the footprint of their restaurant into the upper level of the Bradford Beach bathhouse?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

5. Milwaukee County has a very limited amount of money to spend on capital projects each year. Of these two scenarios, which one do you generally prefer?

- ☐ Allocate \$66 million for the repair of the Mitchell Park Domes
☐ Allocate \$66 million to repair and replace infrastructure across our parks system (Open swimming pools, replace broken equipment, replace outdated playground equipment, repave tennis and basketball courts, purchase new picnic tables, repair bathroom facilities, etc.)
☐ No opinion

6. Additional comments:

For e-updates, please provide your email address: _____

To submit by mail, please send to: **Sheldon Wasserman, Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Rm 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233**

Milwaukee Public Museum Continues on Path to New Home

The Milwaukee Public Museum is moving to a new location. Their current building, constructed in the early 1960s, is in disrepair and does not meet the needs of a modern museum. The deficits are so severe that if the museum were to continue operating there, they would likely lose accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.



The future museum will be collocated with the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in a new building on Sixth and McKinley Streets. This collaboration

will lower the cost of the project. Milwaukee County has a longstanding relationship with the public museum, and decisions about how the County can provide financial support as they move to their new home have not yet been made. Milwaukee County cannot pay for this museum on its own, and I am very thankful to the State of Wisconsin for coming up with \$40 million in funding. Private donations will be required for the additional millions in construction costs. A projected timeline would enable the new museum to open in 2026.

Visit mpm.edu to learn more about the move and the great exhibits and programs the museum is still offering at their current location.

Lifeguards Receive Pay Increase

2021 has been difficult for all amenities in our parks but was particularly devastating for our pools and beaches. We were able to open more pools than 2020, but many neighborhood pools remained closed for a variety of reasons. A shortage of available lifeguards was a major factor. Due to the pandemic, the Parks Department could not hire lifeguards in 2020, so bringing them back in 2021 was a challenge. The size of our Lifeguard Corps was decreasing before the pandemic but has now worsened.



I voted to increase the pay for all County lifeguards so that we can better recruit for next year. This pay increase won't solve all our issues, but I'm hopeful that there will be many more opportunities for families to cool off and learn critical swimming skills in 2022. I also voted for a resolution asking the Parks Department to provide a report to the County Board on how they're preparing for the 2022 Aquatics season.



3RD DISTRICT MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Sheldon A. Wasserman

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Service Guide for 3rd District Milwaukee County Residents

County Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman 278-4237

Airports

Mitchell International Airport 747-5300
Timmerman Airport 461-3222

Child Support Enforcement 615-2593

Clerk of Circuit Court 278-5362

County Clerk 278-4067

County Executive 278-4211

County Treasurer 278-4033

Courts

Civil Division (small & large claims) 278-4120
Criminal Division 278-4538
Children's Court 257-7700

Department on Aging 289-6874

Department of Health and Human Services 289-6877

District Attorney's Office 278-4646

Election Commission 278-4060

Emergency/Public Safety

Sheriff (non-emergency) 278-4766
TDD Emergency 278-5252
Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) 272-2876
Emergency Management (24 hours) 257-4709

Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Mental Health Crisis... 257-7222

Fraud Hotline 93-FRAUD

House of Correction 427-4700

Jury Services

General Information 278-4469
Reserve Juror Message 985-6000

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 273-7121

Marriage Licenses/Passports/Fishing Lic. 278-4067

Medical Examiner 223-1200

Mental Health Complex

General Information 257-6995
Admitting (Emergency) 257-7260

Milwaukee Art Museum 224-3200

Milwaukee County Historical Society 273-8288

Milwaukee County Parks

Boerner Botanical Gardens 525-5600
General Information 257-7275
Parks Hotline 257-5100
Organized Sports 257-8030
Golf Office 257-8024

District 3 Parks

Big Bay 964-0064
Bradford Beach 962-8809

Cambridge Woods 962-8809

Estabrook 964-0064

Gilman Triangle 962-8809

McKinley 273-5224

Prospect Triangle 962-8809

Veterans 962-8809

War Memorial & Art Center Grounds 273-5533

Milwaukee County Zoo 771-3040

Milwaukee County Sports Complex 281-2694

Milwaukee Public Museum 278-2702

Municipalities

Milwaukee 286-CITY (2489)

Shorewood 847-2700

Whitefish Bay 962-6690

Office of Persons with Disabilities 278-3932

Register in Probate 278-4444

Register of Deeds 278-4021

Rent Assistance 278-4894

Transit System

Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares 344-6711

Customer Comments 937-3218

Transit Plus 343-1700

UW-Extension 256-4600

Veterans Services 266-1234

Victim/Witness Service 278-4667